

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

USAFSAM deploys first transportable hyperbaric chamber

By Col. James Wright

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

A team from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks installed and placed into operation the first Department of Defense transportable hyperbaric chamber at Johnston Atoll Dec. 11-14. This is the first time the EEHS has been employed by the DoD.

The Emergency Evacuation Hyperbaric Stretcher, known as the EEHS is a light-weight fully transportable hyperbaric chamber capable of treating decompression sickness from altitude exposure or ocean diving, arterial gas embolism, crush injuries, burns, blood loss and many other wounds. The EEHS delivers 100 percent oxygen to the patient while under pressure up to three atmospheres, and can be used to treat the patient during transport.

The chamber weighs approximately 110 pounds and can be transported by ambulance, motor vehicle, or on a number of different aircraft, including the C-9, C-130, C-141, C-5, KC-135, or MH-60 helicopter.

The EEHS allows aircraft to fly faster and more efficiently without regard for patient altitude requirements. The chamber provides the appropriate environment for treatment or transport.

The EEHS was modified and certified under a foreign comparative test program at USAFSAM. The chamber is being purchased by the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard. Units are anticipated to be deployed in support of high altitude and diving operations in remote environments, as support for Special Forces, and to aug-

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Messages of hope

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Brooks' lone elf

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Photo by Dale Eckroth

Holiday glow

Holiday decorations add to the spirit of the season.

Brooks officials announce 2002 ambassadors

By Ed Shannon

Office of Public Affairs

Brooks officials honored 16 people who will serve as base ambassadors in 2002 and named the two ambassadors who will represent Brooks in April at Fiesta San Antonio events during a ceremony Dec. 12 at Hangar 9.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd Jr., 311th Human Systems Wing commander, presented certificates to each ambassador and placed a sash on the Fiesta ambassadors.

Staff Sgt. Ty Richards, a radioanalytical counting technician for the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, and 1st Lt. Josie Morrow, the 311th Air Base Group commander's executive officer, will attend more than 40 Fiesta events including parades and receptions.

Serving as 2002 Brooks ambassa-

dors are Richards, Staff Sgt. Sarah Taylor, Capt. Abdollah Moghaddam, and Airman First Class Amanda Joel from AFIERA; Capt. Natalie Sutto, Capt. Rebekah Friday, and 1st Lt. Nora Merritt from the 311th Medical Squadron; Morrow and Vida Marsh from 311th ABG; Jeanna Pruitt and Staff Sgt. Gregg Brownlee from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine; Airmen First Class Desmond Fahie and Enrico Salabarria from the 68th Information Operations Squadron; 2nd Lt. Joann Kenneally from the 311th HSW Systems Program Office; Capt. Matt Herder from the Air Force Human System Integration Office; and Master Sgt. Andre Marsh from the 311th HSW Manpower Office.

The Ambassador Program is part of the wing commander's Community Outreach Program and is managed by the Office of Public Affairs. Ambassa-

dors supported nearly 100 events this year including Fiesta, science fairs, speaking opportunities, speech contests, parades and tours. Eleven of the 16 people who applied to be an ambassador competed for the Fiesta ambassador slots. They appeared before a panel of five people in early November, and the panel determined the two Fiesta ambassadors. Panel members include Larry Farlow, Public Affairs director; Lt. Col. Susan Loveland, 311th HSW Inspector General; Master Sgt. Georgia Royster, 311th HSW Career Assistance Advisor; Rita Fox, 2001 Fiesta ambassador and deputy director for the 311th ABG; and Tech. Sgt. Mike Ryan, 2001 Fiesta ambassador and an instructor at USAFSAM.

Dodd also recognized 11 people who served as ambassadors for 2001 including Fox, and Ryan; Capt. Beth Ann Lumpkin-Gambill, Tech. Sgt. Kenton

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Seasons Greetings



White House photo by Eric Draper

“This is a time of conflict and challenge. This is also a season of hope and joy. We continue to pray for peace on Earth, even as we fight so that oppression may end. And we continue to give thanks for what you have done to defend American ideals.”

President George W. Bush

from the White House

Hello, and happy holidays.

On behalf of all Americans, President Bush and I thank you for your service to our nation. And we salute your devotion to the values of duty, honor and country. I know I speak for all Americans when I say we're proud of you.

As Americans celebrate the holiday season, we know that for you this is a season of separation from friends and loved ones. Your time away from your families helps guarantee that America's families can be safe at home. While you are deployed, we feel your presence across the homeland - in our schools and churches, in the news, and especially in the flags that wave on countless homes, buildings and cars.

Families display pictures of their loved ones in uniform. Children make cards and draw pictures of soldiers, pilots and sailors, who, even by a child's hand, show valor and courage. In the news and in our mail young people are saying that when they grow up they want to be just like you - America's heroes.

President Bush and I pray for the safety and the success of your mission. We join a proud and grateful nation in sending holiday wishes to each one of you.

God bless you, and God bless America.

AFMC commander sends holiday greetings

By Gen. Lester Lyles

AFMC commander

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — The holiday season has always been one of my favorite times of the year. There's so much to be thankful for, and so much to like about it.

It's a time for us to celebrate our faiths, our families and our friends. It's a time to be transported back to our warmest childhood memories. And it's a magical time when the joy of the season seems to make everyone a little bit happier.

Unfortunately, it's also a difficult time for us as a nation as we deal with the tragic results of Sept. 11, which has so many of our fellow military members supporting our multi-front war against terrorism. Like many before them, thousands of airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines are celebrating the holidays in foreign lands, fighting for freedom and democracy...fighting for America.

I encourage all of you to remember our deployed members and their families in your thoughts and prayers, especially over the holidays. It's always hard to be apart from family and friends, but it's especially difficult during holidays when our people are in harm's way.

AFMC warriors have a vital role in Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle - rapidly delivering critical capabilities, providing needed munitions and accelerating sustainment of essential weapons systems. I couldn't be prouder of your exceptional efforts to support the warfighter. It has been a tremendous team effort and I remain amazed at what you've been able to accomplish every day. Our entire AFMC family, which includes military members, civilian employees and our contract workers - embodies the command's ideal of "warriors supporting warriors."

I also want to thank our families for enduring the long hours that their loved ones spent on duty or on trips and deployments. I believe that there is nothing more important to us individually, as a community and as a command than our families. We remain committed to our families and are investing significant resources in our Year of the Family program, which will continue through 2002. I am very gratified by what we have accomplished with our family-friendly initiatives in 2001. But, the best is yet to come.

I'm also excited about the coming year and the healthy challenges we face as a command that are designed to make us even better at providing world class support to our customers. We are embarking on several initiatives that I believe will make us better, faster and more innovative. You'll be hearing more about these as they unfold in the months ahead.

For now, let me just say that we're getting great support from senior Air Force leadership in these efforts to transform our processes, even as Air Force and Department of Defense leaders undertake organizational-wide transformations. I'm convinced 2002 will be a banner year for AFMC.

Although we're in the midst of a very serious challenge to our nation, we can still take time to enjoy the magic of a holiday season and the many blessings we enjoy as Americans. As you are enjoying the holidays with family and friends, let me also encourage you to remember our heroes overseas and especially those who are right in our midst supporting the war effort and making daily sacrifices to keep our families and our communities safe.

Mina and I wish you a safe and warm holiday season. Thank you all for your good work in 2001 - you have made a difference. I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

God bless you all.



Ambassadors

Continued from Page 1

Lee, and Senior Airman Christina Rivera, from USAFSAM; 1st Lt. Jessica Joyner and Staff Sgt. Melissa Gonzalez from the 311th ABG; Airman First Class Andrew Adam from the 311th Security Forces Squadron; Spec. Shawna Adam from the U.S. Army Detachment of Walter Reed Hospital, located at Brooks; and Capt. Michele Rainey, from the 311th HSW Contracting Office.

Ed.Shannon@brooks.af.mil



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Staff Sgt. Ty Richards, left, a radioanalytical counting technician for the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, and 1st Lt. Josie Morrow, 311th Air Base Group commander's executive officer, received their sashes from Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, following the announcement that they will serve as the 2002 Fiesta ambassadors for Brooks. Richards and Morrow will represent Brooks at more than 40 Fiesta events, including parades and receptions. Dodd also recognized another 14 Brooks people who will serve as base ambassadors in the coming year during the Ambassador Ceremony at Hangar 9 recently.



Chamber

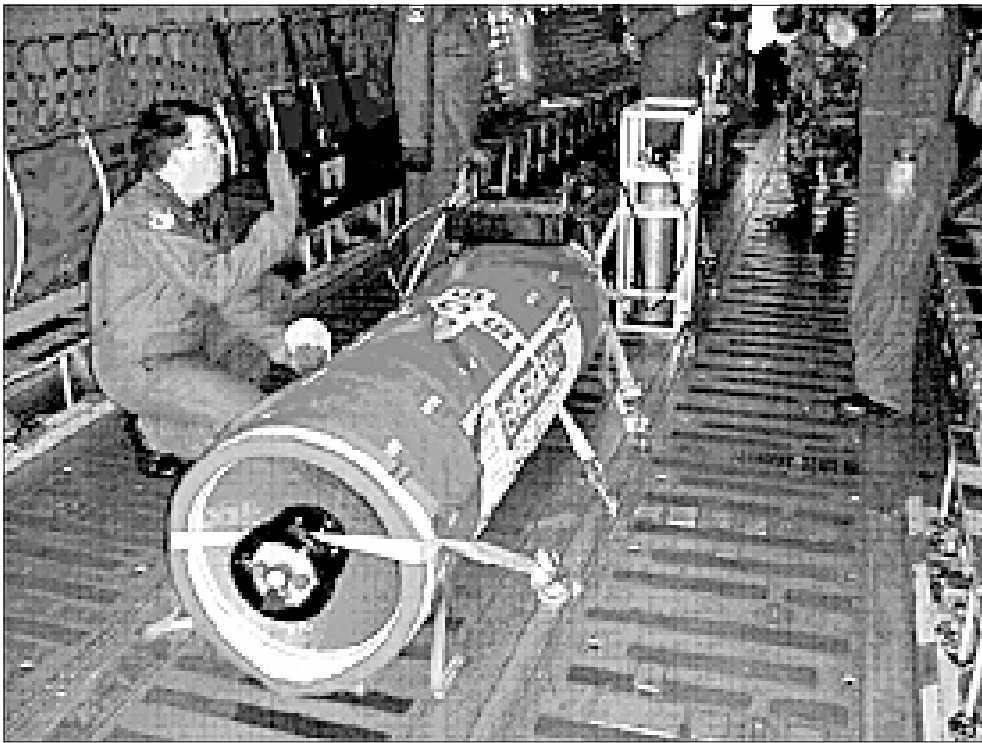
Continued from Page 1

ment the capabilities of military medical treatment facilities.

Johnston Atoll was an ideal location for the EEHS because of its remote location 717 nautical miles from the nearest hyperbaric chamber.

The USAFSAM team instructed medical personnel at Johnston Atoll in hyperbaric medicine and then showed them how to operate the EEHS. The chamber will be under the supervision of the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory at Brooks.

The program manager for the EEHS is Dr. Larry Krock, Chief Scientist for the School of Aerospace Medicine. Other team members were Tech. Sgt. Roy Cano, Master Sgt. Mark Sylvis, and Col. James Wright.



The EEHS during transport on a C-130 aircraft.

Courtesy photo

Brooks budget analyst is AFMC's installation-level command resource advisor of the year

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

Mr. Bruce Wollenzin, a budget analyst with the 311th Human Resources Wing Financial Management and Comptroller's Office was recently chosen Air Force Materiel Command's Resource Advisor of the Year at the installation level for fiscal year 2001.

During the award period Wollenzin was a financial management specialist with 311th HSW/FM, serving as chief financial officer for both the 311th HSW and the 311th Air Base Group. He oversaw a budget of more than \$50 million. In that position he managed travel, supplies, equipment, fuels and utilities, contracts, plus civilian and communication expenses.

The resource advisor arranged and managed funding for local quality of life programs. This led to the base obtaining new playground equipment, shade

structures at all youth ball fields, and new equipment for the health and wellness center. Soon workers will complete a new figure 8 roller blade track here. All were key projects in localizing AFMC's Year of the Family project, designed to demonstrate leadership's interest and involvement in improving quality of life conditions.

Mr. Wollenzin, a GS-12, saved the wing more than \$50,000 in interest by making sure cost centers completed receiving reports on time. The prompt payment act requires government agencies to pay interest if bills are not paid within 30 days.

Recognized for providing 100 percent on-time assistance to cost center managers, Wollenzin tracked checkbook accounts, and expedited reconciling and monitoring expenses for the wing staff. The Cleveland, Ohio native says the toughest responsibil-

ity of a resource advisor is "making sure financial representatives are trained, that they know what the money is buying, and that the spending process meets legal and ethical standards. We are stewards of the American people."

The 311th HSW/FM commander, Lt. Col. James Sims, said the budget analyst is "dedicated, committed, and demonstrates team effort daily. He is the ideal example of the high quality Air Force. He sets the example for his peers to emulate. He has earned the respect of his supervisors."

Mr. Wollenzin served 26 years as an Air Force master sergeant in the personnel career field. He has been an Air Force civil servant for the past 14 years.

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AFMC honors Quality Assurance Manager of the Year

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

Air Force Materiel Command recognized Tech. Sgt. Douglas Ochodnick, 311 Human Systems Wing Finance and Comptroller's Office, as Quality Assurance Manager of the Year for fiscal year 2001.

Ochodnick was honored for repairing an audit program by making spreadsheets to more easily track financial milestones. He also improved spreadsheets to speed the report of survey process. Reports of survey identify damage to government property, and assign or relieve liability. Finance officials say when these reports are completed on time units can better account for assets and more quickly obtain replacement or repair funding.

His commander, Lt. Col. James Sims, said Ochodnick "has a lean forward approach to customer service. He has fantastic organizational skills. His coworkers naturally gravitate to him for advice. I seek him out for guidance on the most complicated finance issues."

The Air Force Audit Agency cited the Frankenmuth, Mich. native's careful examination and reduction of old audits on reports. His quality assurance program identified training needs and deadlines, improving monthly training goals by 50 percent.

Ochodnick took charge of the unit's training and unit manning document program matching training needs and requirements for assigned personnel. He volunteered to help the travel accounting section clear outstanding travel orders, reducing orders by 30 percent.

The master sergeant selectee says he bases his financial management philosophy on the importance of "attention to detail, financial stewardship and integrity."

In his spare time, the 16-year Air Force veteran wrote customer service fact sheets outlining entitlements in detail.

Ochodnick and his wife Debora raise horses Light Blue Gal and Doc Dakota Steel for cutting competition.

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Rare ‘bird’ spotted at Brooks

In the top photo, Master Sgt. Joe Zavala, of the 311th Security Forces Squadron, radios the Brooks Command Post to receive clearance for take-off of a private Cessna airplane on the base's old east runway.

The plane, owned by Wright Flyers Inc. of San Antonio, developed engine problems and made an emergency landing in a field on base. After undergoing a thorough engine inspection, the plane was given clearance by the base and federal officials to depart nearly one week later.

The aircraft was towed to the east runway where Larry Carr, a Wright Flyers Inc. member, piloted the plane.

In the bottom photo, the plane takes off from the east runway at Brooks bound for Stinson Airport.

The last official Air Force plane took off from Brooks June 20, 1960. The aircraft was a C-131 “Samaritan” piloted by Col. L.B. Matthews, commander of Det. 1, 1st Aeromedical Transport Group.



Photos by Dale Eckroth





Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence engineer comes out smelling like a rose

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Bill Kivela equates his career's sweet smell of success with his undergraduate years where fragrant experiences ensured that he'd come out of college smelling like a rose.

Today, this U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence employee appreciates how his past work in helping build Rose Parade floats prepared him for a future Air Force civil engineering career.

"It gave me a great amount of confidence knowing I can work on anything. It was great collaborating with a team and learning (engineering) skills by doing," said Kivela about his experience as a California Polytechnic State University parade float volunteer.

Kivela, an AFCEE Environmental Quality Program Division civil engineer, became a Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo graduate because of the university's prestigious engineering program.

Part of the program's hands-on educational approach involves giving students the optional experience of designing and building floats showcased in the annual New Year's Day Tournament of Roses Parade.

"My first exposure was decorating a float called 'Grin and Bear It' in 1978," recalls Kivela about the award-winning entry that featured a large bear propelling a railroad handcar.

Since 1949, Cal Poly has gained international recognition for their parade float engineering marvels that perennially feature whimsical humor through animation electronics.

"We used a lot of windshield wiper electric motors. They articulate a back-and-forth motion that helps in the animation of a

(character's) head or arm," recalls Kivela.

"The year I worked on the ('Grin and Bear It') float, we were the first to use (computer) microprocessors to control and sequence all animation," he explained, saying that competing entries relied on limit switches for their animated figures.

Kivela helped weld and form in metal the float's animated characters.

He marveled at the amount of planning involved in the design and construction of these holiday wonders.

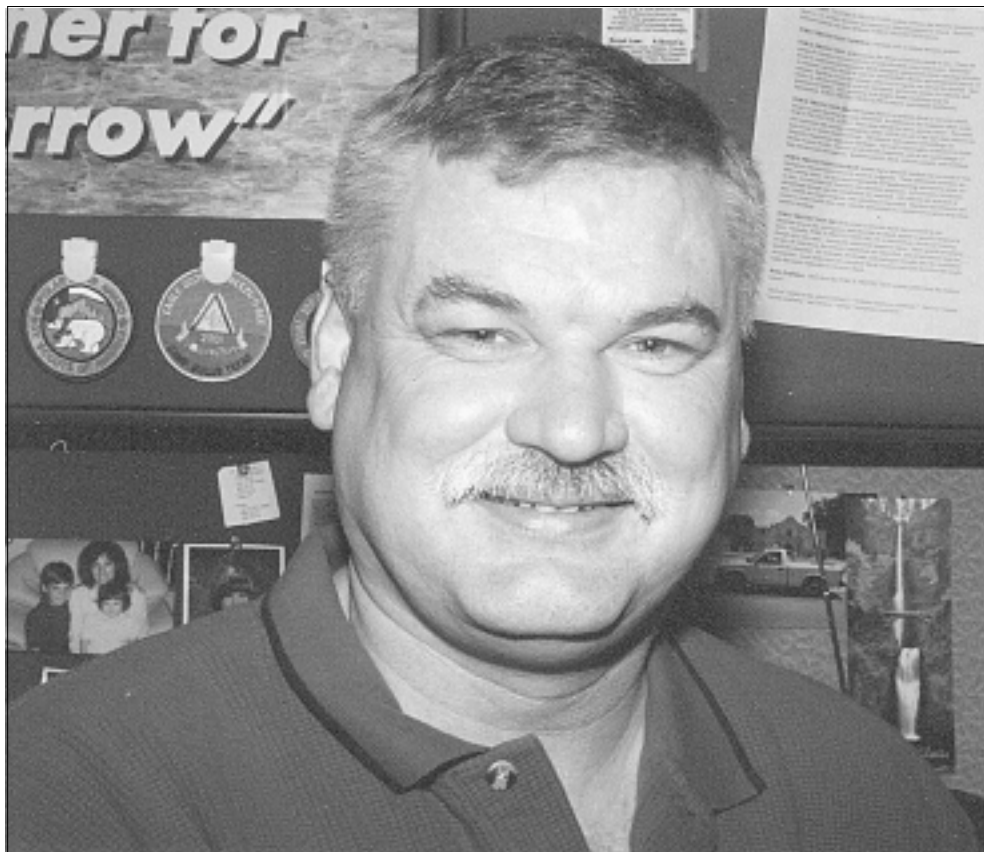
According to Brian Bosch, design chairman for Cal Poly's 2002 entry entitled 'Birthday Blowout,' the university's San Luis Obispo and Pomona campuses share float building tasks.

The Pomona campus is responsible for the hydraulic animation engine, while the San Luis Obispo campus is tasked with hydraulic drive system propulsion.

"We start planning in February," Bosch said, referring to float committee student volunteers who represent academic disciplines ranging from electrical

“Parade rules require that nothing but floral material be visible. Every square inch has to be covered with a plant. We'd cut the stem off, use a paint brush in applying glue to the back side of the flower head, let it dry, then tack it on the float.”

Bill Kivela
AFCEE engineer



Kivela

Photo by Rudy Purificato

engineering to floral design. The float's design is selected through a contest.

Donations fund most of the float's estimated \$200,000 cost.

"Most of our tropical flowers are donated," Bosch said, explaining that some dry flowers they use are grown on campus.

It takes an army of volunteers a week to affix about 100,000 flowers.

Kivela recalls his own 'battle with the flowers.' "Flowers require different adhesives. We used Elmer's light glue for dry flowers. We used two types of special flower glue for succulent flowers such as mums."

Kivela learned that flowers wilt immediately if the wrong adhesive is applied.

"Parade rules require that nothing but floral material be visible. Every square inch has to be covered with a plant," Kivela said.

Float-affixed paper mache stencils serve as floral design

blueprints.

"We'd cut the stem off, use a paint brush in applying glue to the back side of the flower head, let it dry, then tack it on the float (stencil)."

Kivela considers the experience a college career highlight.

"I was proud of it, but totally exhausted. It was rewarding seeing your float go down the parade route."

Since then, Kivela has had a characteristically 'rosy' life and career with his AFCEE civil engineer-wife Karen by his side.

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ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

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SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

What is a YOFAM?

YOFAM stands for Year of the Family, a HQ Air Force Materiel Command initiative. Calendar years 2001 and 2002 are designated as Years of the Family.

YOFAM is intended to give us all an opportunity to focus on family: the Air Force family and the AFMC family, the Brooks family — active duty military, Guard and Reserve, civilian employees, contractors and their family members, our own spouses, children, parents and siblings. It encourages us to promote family, and consider what we can do to improve a feeling of family and quality of life for all family members. Brooks' YOFAM efforts include a Year of the Family web page linked to the Brooks homepage. A resource and benefits guide is linked to the

YOFAM web page, as well as a calendar of events and photos of past Year of the Family events. There are many events, programs and classes offered on Brooks that promote family life, from squadron and base functions such as holiday parties and commanders calls to classes on financial management and parenting. One example of such an event was the "Salute to Security Forces: Thanks for Keeping us Safe," held Nov. 9 at the Family Support Center.

During this second Year of the Family, take advantage of the agencies, activities, classes and events that can improve the quality of life at home and work. Check out the Health and Wellness Center, the Fitness Center, the Family Support Center, Chapel programs, the Life Skills Support Center, and squadron and base social functions provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Services Division. Throughout the year, do what you can to improve and promote the Brooks family.

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program

By: LaWanda Hawkins

311th HSW Family Support Center

Last year, the Air Force Aid Society awarded more than \$7.5 million in education grants to college students. Don't automatically think you won't qualify for this \$1500 grant. The Society has tailored the program to adjust need measurements based on reasonable standards that fit Air Force families. Visit your AFAS Section or the Society's web site at www.afas.org for information and application. Application Deadline is March 15, 2002.



Security Forces augmentees serve in stride, despite hardships

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

Like many military installations and communities around the world, Brooks increased its security level after the terrorist tragedies Sept. 11. With the help of Air Force Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentees, the shift to tighter security has been seamless 311th Security Forces Squadron officials say.

Ranking from Senior Airman to Chief Master Sergeant, the IMAs reported to Brooks between late September and mid-October. All members have prior military service in security or law enforcement.

They were called from civilian duties at police or sheriff's departments in San Antonio, New York, Miami, League City, Hill Country Village, Medina County, and Harris County.

Members are also employees of U.S. Customs, federal and state penitentiary systems, and Northeast Independent School District Police.

One participant is a college student in San Angelo, and another is a lab technician in San Antonio.

All flight chiefs are IMA Master Sergeants, bringing more than 80 years of experience from urban areas such as Miami, Harris County, New York and San Antonio. The entire IMA force provides about a third of the 311th SFS manpower required to support the more vigilant posture.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Sullivan, security forces manager for the 311th Security Forces Squadron, says the mobilized policemen are "doing a real good job. It's nice to see the meshing between the active and reserve people. Whether they are facing problems on or off the job, these guys are aiding each other."

Sullivan added it's also "encouraging to see things like the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act help IMA members deal with loss of civilian income that is not offset by their active duty military income."

"These people have families to support, and they are making real sacrifices. Normally they would be making overtime pay on top of their regular pay. They're still working overtime, but that extra money isn't there," he said.

The Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Act of 1940 is a federal statute designed to protect those called to active duty during national emergencies.

It suspends action and enforcement on debts and other financial obligations until such time as the liability of the service member to answer or comply is no longer materially impaired by reason of military service.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act enacted October 1994 and significantly updated in 1996 and 1998, provides job protection and rights of reinstatement to employees who participate in the National Guard and Reserve.

A member of the San Antonio Police Department, Sullivan works in that civilian capacity as a traffic officer and a member of the Family Assistance Officer. While on active duty, he ensures all members of the 311th SFS are ready for duty to support and sustain around-the-clock security operations.

Chief Sullivan adds that it is encouraging to see the camaraderie that has developed between the group.

"On some weekends you will see the people who are off come in with all kinds of meat for barbecue and they quickly get the grills going. Then they wait to serve their on-duty comrades when they come in for meal breaks."

Captain John O'Connor, 311th SFS commander notes specifically how the IMA forces add to the quality of base security operations.

"The IMAs are a great asset to our squadron operations and training. Since most of them are civilian police officers, they bring their extensive experience and pass it along to our younger airmen. Also, since they are augmenting our manpower during heightened force protection conditions, we don't have to use READY augmenters from other Brooks organizations. Their presence here helps manning across the base."

Individual Mobilization Augmentees are Reservists who are assigned to active-duty units to do jobs that are essential in wartime but do not require full-time manning during times of peace.

They augment active-duty manning by filling wartime surge requirements, reporting for training a minimum of one day a month and 12 additional days a year.

There are approximately 12,600 IMAs in the Air Force Reserve.

The Air Force Reserve Security Forces community consists of some 2,800 men and women belonging to 45 security forces organizations and activities around the United States.

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At least one SFS augmentee will be home for the holidays

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

You might say Senior Airman Marlon Paredes was barely over his honeymoon when he reported for active duty in mid-October as an Air Force Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee with the 311th Security Forces Squadron here.

But he'll be home for Christmas in Laredo with his wife Deborah when he gets to take leave this holiday season. While some will be counting presents under the tree, Paredes will be counting his blessings period as he also shares time with his parents, two sisters, brother and in-laws.

The GS-9 in the U.S. Customs Service is sacrificing a significant amount of money in salary he received for his regular hours and routine overtime. To make things worse, the canine enforcement officer had to turn over his female patrol dog Ketty because there was no telling how long he would be on active duty. Losing the 4-year-old German Shepherd hurt he says.

Despite those circumstances, Paredes still walks with a swagger as he performs the security police job he loves at Brooks. He knows the territory, having been an active duty security policeman for the 311th SFS from 1992 to 1996.

The J.W. Nixon High School graduate knew there could be times like this when he signed up to be an IMA. He says he "wanted to continue on with my military service so I could sharpen my skills, serve my country, and contribute to the national defense as we fight this war of hidden enemies."

There are other positives. On average, San Antonio is about 10 degrees cooler than Laredo, Paredes pointed out under his blue windbreaker. He also gets to see son Nathan more often, a five-year-old San Antonio native. If you ask Paredes, no one comes close to being so fortunate.

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Chapel sign hits sensitive chords with soulful sayings

By Rick Guidry
Discovery Staff Writer

If you're waiting for a sign to go back to church read on. It's a sign. It's only a sign. But as a result, people are increasing their awareness of the Brooks chapel.

Well, it's really the Brooks chapel marquee.

Lt. Col. Dennis McCarty, 311th Human Systems Wing chaplain, has been strategically placing messages on the board for more than two years now. They're aimed at convincing members of the Brooks community to come to the chapel for spiritual support through various religious services and chapel programs.

If his messages miss the mark, they'll bomb. So far they've hit home, leaving many to wonder where he gets those sayings. That's why McCarty says he is very selective about what goes on the marquee.

"Nothing goes up there that I don't know about," he said. "I especially like thoughts that deal with the Air Force core values," he said.

Those core values; integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do are reflected in one way or another in those words of wisdom.

The chaplain's original source was a file on a Pentagon intranet called "loggie rules". Started by an administration person in 1992, the file grew to 300 quotes in five days before the directorate chief could quash it. The quotes ranged from elements of Murphy's Law to philosophies on the

art of war, honor and leadership.

Today the chaplain's file contains 622 different quotes people have recommended to him or he finds through research. Quotes he has already used are in bold, and those he really likes are highlighted red. The key is to stay away from quotes that are specific to a particular religion or sect he says.

"We have a non-denominational approach," he pointed out. "We intentionally provide positive spiritual support of the widest variety to all personnel regardless of religious preferences."

"People gravitate to different signs. If the sign really hits home with a person, they will send me an e-mail, call, or come in and talk about it."

One sign that caused a lot of debate read: 'Frustration is not having any one else to blame but yourself.' There is a lot of frustration in many lives about things over which we honestly have no control. This hit a sensitive chord." McCarty said.

McCarty hopes the messages make people aware of the chapel's presence.

Generally new signs are posted each Monday and Thursday. McCarty says on Monday the emphasis is words of encouragement and leadership. On Thursday it's more on spirituality.

The chaplain says he tries to alternate between light and serious messages without belaboring one subject.

Nonsensical messages such as 'Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana' and 'The chaplain told me to change the sign, so I did' have caught the eyes and interest of many. Others have a serious tone. An anonymous



Photo by Rudy.Purificato

Senior Airman Scott Wiggam routinely changes the chapel marquee to give passersby something to think about.

caller once told the chaplain her husband was having an affair.

She said "I know he reads your sign. Can you write something specific that will send him a message?" The next day the marquee read 'Stop the affair, return to your spouse, ask for forgiveness.' One person promptly called and said. "Chaplain remember the Bible says 'Judge not that you not be judged.'" Another said, "Chaplain, you're fishing." He said, "No, I'm trolling. I just drop a line in the water now and then to see if anyone's paying attention; and they are."

"Chaplains have the singularly unique role of providing spiritual leadership and giving moral guidance to individuals and the base at large. Everyone should expect this and commanders should demand it. And this innocuous little marquee is just a gentle reminder of things that have real meaning in life." McCarty said.

After Sept. 11, "we made a few from scratch, mostly encouraging thoughts ending with "God Bless America, Pray for Her Today," McCarty said.

The marquee is must reading for many Brooks people. When some people miss seeing the sign, they will call to ask what it says for the day.

It can also be a security force concern. Some drivers will slow down for long messages and not speed up until they've completely finished reading. Slower readers, or more careful drivers, will drive around the block to finish reading a message.

The chapel tried to get an electronic sign this past year, but their request, so far, has been turned down.

In the meantime the old-school marquee continues to work, life is good, and chapel attendance is up 23 percent over the last two years according to McCarty. "We've probably reached our maximum growth comfort level for a chapel of this size," he said. "But there is always room for more people; we're not shoulder-to-shoulder in the pews-yet," the chaplain said in a tone of optimism. His prayers are being answered.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



Acquisition Center of Excellence drives new capabilities to warfighter

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Laying the cornerstone for a top-to-bottom reform of how the service develops and buys weapons systems, the Air Force opened a new Acquisition Center of Excellence Dec. 10.

The ACE's primary mission is to help acquisition professionals cut through burdensome, unproductive processes that slow the fielding of new warfighting capabilities.

The new office, led by a senior executive service member, also will be the driving force for implementing "Agile Acquisition," a sweeping series of initiatives designed to streamline the Air Force's acquisition systems. The plan was endorsed at a meeting of the Air Force's four-star generals and senior civilians in November.

"Our acquisition system must be as agile and flexible as our warfighters," said secretary of the Air Force James Roche. "It must identify the right targets and the best practices that enable us to provide the most cost-effective systems to the field. This Acquisition Center of Excellence is an ideal forum to deliver these results."

The major thrusts of Agile Acquisition are captured in six new reform-oriented "Lightning Bolts" Air Force acquisition leaders developed.

They are:

- * Results, Not Process — A wholesale assault on non-value-added processes, under the Air Force's control, that slow the acquisition process.
- * Spiral: Success in Increments — An Air Force-wide initiative to synchronize spiral development efforts across the requirements, resources, development, testing and sustainment communities.
- * Roadblock Buster — Using the ACE to cut through red tape and, where necessary to speed acquisition, to issue waivers to non-productive Air Force processes.
- * Breeding Innovators — A comprehensive effort to train acquisition professional to be innovators and to replace risk aversion with risk management.
- * Program Executive Office/Services Contracts — A central source of guidance, assistance and policy development for Air Force services contracts, which now account for nearly half of all acquisition dollars.
- * Idea Pipeline — A drive to establish better conduits for exchanging ideas, innovations and best business practices between industry and the Air Force.

"My charge from the secretary is to foster a culture of innovation and reasonable risk taking," said Dr. Marvin Sambur, assistant secretary of the Air

Force for acquisition. "Only if we do this will we be able to shorten acquisition cycle times, insert new technologies into systems throughout their life cycles and deliver today's technology today."

"Agile Acquisition provides the strategy to do just that. The Lightning Bolts provide the roadmap, and the new ACE gives us the tools to succeed," Sambur said. "We want to work closely with our industrial partners to mine their best ideas to develop both an agile and credible acquisition process."

While headquartered at the Pentagon, the ACE will work closely with Air Force Materiel Command and Air Force Space Command, the two Air Force commands which acquire most major systems.

"The changes Agile Acquisition will demand are revolutionary! That's as it should be. Our world, and our mission, have changed radically in the past few months," said Gen. Lester Lyles, commander of Air Force Materiel Command. "We must change with it to ensure we provide the warfighter a responsive and effective acquisition system that meets his changing needs."

Lyles pointed out that Agile Acquisition will mesh perfectly with AFMC's Enterprise Management initiative.

"These two efforts will work together to take us where we need to go to keep America's warfighters the most powerful and respected force in the world," he said.

The need to free the acquisition community to accept reasonable risk and innovate is crucial to the Air Force's continued success, according to Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff. The requirements and development processes simply have to be more responsive, he said, and the ACE will play a major role in making that happen.

"We may — actually we know we will — make some mistakes along the way; that's OK," Jumper said. "Our unbridled fear of mistakes is costing us far more than any sensible risk taking ever will."

Implementing the Lightning Bolts is on a "very aggressive" schedule, said Darleen Druyun, principal deputy assistant secretary, acquisition management. She said she is particularly intent on stripping from Air Force regulations any "non-value-added" processes that are not required by law.

"Too often, we complain that the law requires us to do this or to do that, when in fact it's our own regulations implementing the law that are the culprits," she said. "Sometimes, we are our own worst enemies. That is about to change."

"We need to get on with this. If there's a consensus on anything in the area of acquisition reform, it's that there's been more than enough study. It's time for action."

For questions, email ace@pentagon.af.mil.

“The changes Agile Acquisition will demand are revolutionary. That’s as it should be. Our world, and our mission, have changed radically in the past few months.”

Gen. Lester Lyles
AFMC Commander

Agile Acquisition AFMC commander envisions better support to America's warfighters

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Launching Agile Acquisition provides an exciting opportunity for all of us in the business of developing, acquiring, testing and sustaining the weapon systems our Air Force uses to defend America's freedom!

Agile Acquisition opens the door for real, meaningful change; change that will enable us do our jobs better and, most importantly, provide better support for our customers: this nation's warfighters.

The "Lightning Bolts" that implement this new way of doing business give us the tools we need to make these changes. They will touch the entire Air Force, especially through Lightning Bolt #5, which will transform the services contracts that affect every one of us. They will focus our acquisition efforts and, at the same time, reinforce our other initiatives to transform and improve the services and products we provide.

In particular, Enterprise Management in AFMC ties in perfectly with Agile Acquisition. Enterprise Management shatters stovepipes!

It gives individual managers the responsibility and authority to look at broader concepts and issues affecting programs that are different. It gives warfighters a single point of contact to access the acquisition process on a system or program. These two efforts will work together to take us where we need to go to keep America's warfighters the most powerful and respected force in the world.

We must make sure we're developing, finding, adapting and delivering the best mix of capabilities to our air and space warriors in the minimum amount of time. To do that, we're taking a close look at everything we do across the full acquisition spectrum, from the conception of a new weapon system right on through to how we maintain and sustain it after it's fielded. Enterprise Management makes AFMC well prepared for doing this analysis and implementing the changes we need.

The changes Agile Acquisition will demand are revolutionary! That's as it should be.

Our world, and our mission, have changed radically in the past few months. We must change with it to ensure we provide the warfighter a responsive and effective acquisition system that meets his changing needs.

Agile Acquisition has my full support and commitment. To be successful, it must have yours.

I trust you will all give it your highest level of attention and the full force of your tremendous creativity, expertise and dedication. Our future depends on it! The future of our nation, and the success and safety of our fighting forces hinge on our ability to do what must be done.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear. This is not change for change's sake. We're talking about breaking down barriers and eliminating institutional inertia, rules and processes that rob people of creative spirit or don't add value.

It's imperative that we provide absolutely the best and newest capabilities to our fighters in the shortest time possible. We can't settle for providing today's technology tomorrow. We must, and we will, find ways to provide tomorrow's technology today!

The stakes are high. Failure is not an option.

We have support from Air Force leadership to make the changes we need to make.

Lightning Bolts 2002 give us the tools to make those changes. And, most importantly, we have the people with the ability to make all this happen in our dedicated acquisition worker force throughout the Air Force.

Readiness inspections help us "Be Ready"

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Since Sept. 11, 2001, those of us affiliated with Air Force Materiel Command have been rethinking the way we do business during war.

The terrorist attacks on our own soil have proven that we must be equally ready to protect our personnel and mission capability at home while participating in an armed conflict abroad. If we had to boil these lessons learned down into one unifying idea, it was simply stated by our commander-in-chief when he addressed Congress and the nation concerning the events of Sept. 11.

President Bush had but two words for us in that historic address: "Be Ready." Being ready is what readiness inspections are all about.

Readiness has always been and always will be the hallmark of the Air Force. Secretary of the Air Force James Roche recently said, "The Air Force is a very fascinating institution. It was born in war. Most of its life has been in war."

During the cold War, our readiness found a home in dozens of foreign airfields, alert facilities and missile silos across the country - we were ready - and we won. Since the Cold War, we've developed an expeditionary approach to be ready for challenges across the globe.

Now we face the challenge of being ready to combat enemies foreign or domestic; in other lands and, for the first time in a long while, in our own backyard. The need for constant readiness is clear, and the inspection process ensures that we are prepared.



New York City cop who survived terrorist attacks on Brooks ‘beat’

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani met with him, before the latter left for his mobilization assignment, to thank the Air Force reservist for his work in safeguarding city hall workers during the Sept. 11 World Trade Center terrorist attacks. While Master Sgt. Hector Vega now helps safeguard the base community on his Brooks ‘beat,’ he admits he’ll never forget his most challenging career experience as a New York City cop.

“It helps me to talk about it. I’ve shared my story with the guys,” Vega said, referring to 311th Security Forces Squadron colleagues. Vega is an individual mobilization augmentee who since 1985 has served two-week annual training tours at Brooks. He began his one-year active duty assignment as patrol flight chief here in October.

“I was very surprised when I was activated. They didn’t call me to active duty during Desert Storm,” admits Vega, who was notified during his 40th birthday party that he was being recalled to active duty.

Vega’s assignment came about a month after the worst acts of terrorism in U.S. history. Even for a hardened 17-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, the tragedy had an enormous impact on him.

“I couldn’t believe it. The thing that affected me the most was seeing (glimpses) of people jumping from the towers,” he said, explaining that many office workers chose to fall to their deaths rather than be incinerated in fires caused by burning jet fuel.

At the time of the first attack, Vega was five blocks from ‘ground zero’ talking with his police lieutenant on the steps of New York City Hall. For seven-plus years, this Manhattan-born detective sergeant had served there on the Municipal Security Section in charge of providing protection for the mayor and his family and other elected officials.

“I heard a gigantic roar that sounded like



Vega Photo by Rudy Purificato

a sonic boom. I looked up and caught a glimpse of the first plane hitting tower one. The next thing I saw after the explosion was thousands of pieces of paper, like confetti, floating in the air. It was office paper from the tower,” recalls Vega. As if to underscore this ‘911’ emergency, ironically, one of the airplane’s engines was later found next to a phone booth a block away from him.

“(Intuitively) something told me it was not a routine accident. It didn’t seem right,” Vega said. He quickly acted to secure city hall. “I went into lock-down mode. We shut city hall off to public access.”

Vega also dispatched police officers to conduct a city hall security sweep for explosive devices, a counter-terrorist tactic in case the airplane crash turned out to be a diversionary act.

“I didn’t see the second plane, but I actually flinched from the explosion. The fireball was so tremendous that I could feel the heat. I initially thought the second explosion was caused by ruptured gas lines from the first crash.”

People in and around city hall began to panic. “I was afraid people were going to be trampled, so I ordered the main gates (to city hall) opened. We cleared everybody out of the park, but kept city hall workers inside,” Vega said.

No one then knew how much danger they were in.

“I began to evacuate city hall after I learned about the Pentagon and Pennsylvania crashes.” Vega was focused on his job, but was

worried about his wife and two children. “My daughter works at the Empire State Building. I couldn’t leave my post, but it crossed my mind that the Empire State Building may be a target.” He found out later his daughter Jessica had seen the second plane hit tower two.

The massive debris cloud produced when the first tower collapsed quickly obliterated his thoughts of his family’s safety. “It was the darkest, blackest cloud I had ever seen. I couldn’t see anything. It was pitch black. Everybody ran back into city hall. One of the detectives had locked the front doors behind him.” Vega was locked out momentarily. From head to toe, he was covered in gritty gray soot.

“The blackness turned to a gray haze. There was total silence. It was very eerie.” Vega was proud of fellow officers, positioned at city hall’s various gates prior to the first tower collapse. “Everyone held their position. Then I looked up and saw the second tower collapse.”

The nightmare continued unabated for the 48-straight hours Vega worked without a break. “I (later) went to ground zero. Fires were roaring everywhere. Everything around me had been pulverized into dust.” Vega had lost many colleagues, including 23 New York City police officers and 343 firemen.

He credits Air Force security forces training for helping prepare him for what transpired on Sept. 11, high praise from a cop who served his rookie year at one of the city’s toughest precincts, made famous in the movie “Fort Apache, The Bronx.”

“The military really helped me develop my interpersonal skills in dealing with people,” said the 22-year Air Force veteran. The fear, suffering and death he witnessed also gave him new insight. “After living through that, I really appreciate my family and people more.”

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Readiness

Continued from Page 10

Operational Readiness Inspections are but one of many types of inspections commanders have at their disposal to obtain an independent assessment of unit readiness. An ORI and the inspection process helps commanders make sure their personnel are capable of accomplishing the assigned mission.

Inspections make sure that training and equipping are sufficient to get the job done; they ensure benchmark ideas and processes are passed on to other units; they help correct policy and instruction; and they help identify and correct deficiencies. The fact is - independent inspections are critical to maintaining readiness.

The inspection, however, isn’t what you and your unit prepare for. The ORI isn’t the end game. Your readiness to perform your mission is!

Many of you may question why we continue with inspections while we’re stretched so thin and our country is at war. The answer is obvious.

Military readiness is clearly of the highest importance to your commander-in-chief. Therefore, we must make sure readiness

remains foremost in our minds and in our daily lives.

The inspection process has and will adapt to actual conditions and real-world situations. Within AFMC, we’ve performed real-world assessment of force protection, deployment processing and exchangeable surge at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and have given them credit for those portions of the ORI that was scheduled for this past October.

Meanwhile, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., we’ve completed a force protection assessment and given the base credit for that portion of an ORI. The Tinker evaluation will continue with real-world assessments and conclude with a limited ORI.

The AFMC inspector general will seek every opportunity to assess real-world events as they occur and structure additional evaluations to minimize the impact on the units while maintaining the ability to ensure the highest state of readiness.

Now, more than ever, the inspection process must continue. Our orders are clear - “Be Ready.”



Brooks Field’s Class of ’42 to celebrate 60th anniversary

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

All 115 members experienced combat during World War II. Some did not come back. Many others have passed on in the 60 years since they first earned their pilot’s wings at Brooks Field. Now, the remaining survivors of Class 42A plan their final reunion here Jan. 9 on the 60th anniversary of their graduation from advanced flight training.

“During our 50th anniversary reunion in 1992 we visited Hangar 9,” said retired Col. Jarrett B. Roan, reunion group president. The 82-year-old Shreveport, La. native said this gathering will be the group’s last.

“We held our first reunion in 1983 at the Gunter Hotel,” recalls Roan, explaining that the San Antonio hotel’s former cadet club had been a favorite hang out for classmates.

None of them, however, had much time off from training because the Army Air Corps needed every precious moment to prepare pilots for combat. During their 10-week training period, America went from a nation at peace to one that was embroiled in war.

“I was wearing a new suit while eating breakfast at the Manhattan Café, when I heard the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. I never got to wear that suit again,” admits Roan.

As a former Louisiana Tech University engineering student, he couldn’t afford the luxury of a tailored suit until the Army Air Corps offered him \$75 a month to be a flying cadet. He joined in June 1941 to earn money and to ‘fly free.’

“I wanted to fly ever since I was 12 years old when I took my first airplane ride for a dollar in a barnstormer’s tri-motored Ford,” recalls Roan.

He had earned a private pilot’s license before suspending his engineering studies to serve in America’s armed forces.

“We trained in AT-6s and BC-1s, basic combat trainers,” Roan said of his class that began training here in October 1941. Graduation required successfully completing a solo 300-plus mile round trip flight. Roan’s forced landing at the East Texas town of Round Top due to a fuel leak paled in comparison to the spectacularly unorthodox landing he and classmates witnessed involving an O-52 observation plane.

“The pilot forgot to put down his flaps during a landing approach. He didn’t want to hit the hangar so he jerked back on the throttle. He landed the plane on top of the commissary roof,” Roan said. Soon afterward, Brooks Field’s famous ‘Keep ‘em Flying’ sign was erected, a slogan rooted in the antics of that bewildered, but unhurt O-52 pilot, Roan noted.

The O-52 incident was part of a series of aviation mishaps involving this slow-moving aircraft dubbed ‘The Owl.’ “There was an observation school here that trained Army officers in aerial reconnaissance,” Roan said, explaining that advanced flight training pilots typically stayed at Brooks a month after graduation to fly O-52s.

“We didn’t fly O-52s before we graduated. Every time they (the planes) broke up, they’d be stacked up against the balloon hangar. Every class had to fly them.”

The O-52’s unreliability gave Roan an opportunity to make an already anxious aerial reconnaissance officer even more nervous before they took off on a nighttime training mission.

Roan told the officer, “If the engine quits, I’m getting out,” which elicited the passenger’s naïve remark, “Well, don’t let that happen!”

By mid-1942, Roan’s class had shipped out to their wartime assignments. All of them made history. Some distinguished themselves.

“The late Samuel Junkin became the first Army Air Corps pilot to shoot down a German fighter in World War II,” said Roan, recalling his classmate’s contributions. Another classmate, the late Lt. Gen. Royal Baker, became a Korean War triple ace.

As for Roan, he flew 57 combat missions against the Japanese. He was one of five members of Class 42A to ship out to New Guinea, and one of three who returned home.

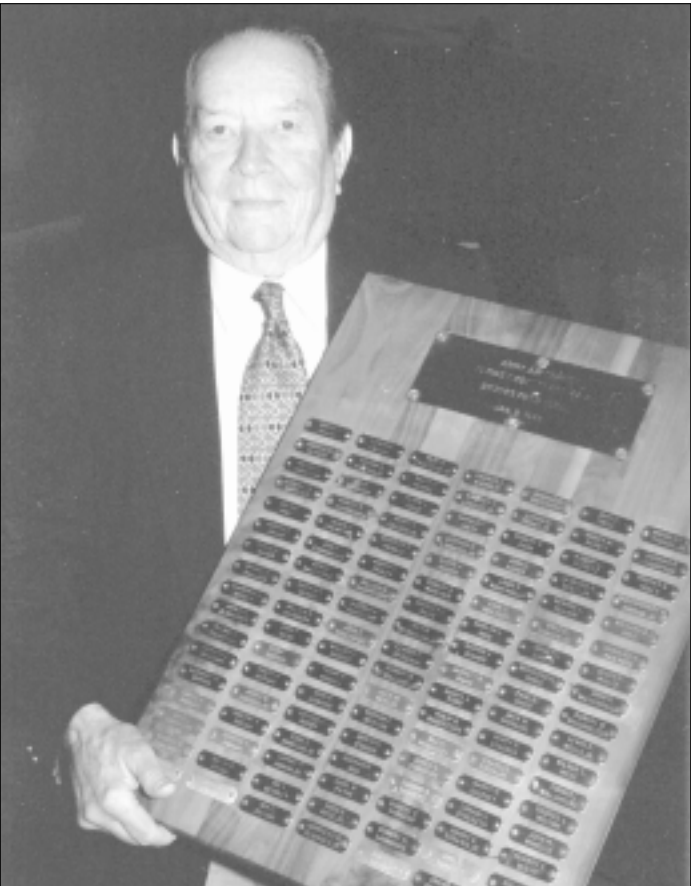


Photo by Rudy.Purificato

Retired Col. Jarrett Roan displays the Brooks Field class 42A commemorative plaque featuring the names of pilots who graduated from flight school here in 1942. The plaque is on permanent display at Hangar 9.

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By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Thank you for supporting our facilities during 2001 and we hope to see everyone in 2002.

Outdoor Recreation Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Garden Plots will be renewable beginning Jan. 2, 2002. Stop by and renew your plot as soon as possible.

This can be an educational experience for children, and the whole family. There are 56 numbered plots with water between every four plots. The annual rental fee is per plot. Stop by and ask Rick Jones about the possibility of growing produce or even flowers for your home and office.

2002 reservations for pavilions will be accepted beginning Jan. 2. There are four pavilions for use by the base population at Brooks.

Pavilion 1 rents for \$25, 2 is \$20, 3 is \$15 and 4 is \$35. Stop by and make your reservations as soon as you have a firm date.

Outdoor Recreation's hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m.

Brooks Club Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Are you still uncertain what to do for New Year's Eve? Join the club staff Jan. 31 from 8 p.m.- 1 a.m. and bring in the New Year in style.

Tickets are \$10 person or \$15 per couple and include heavy hors d'oeuvres, party favors, champagne and breakfast. Hors d'oeuvres include meat platters, vegetable and fruit trays, dips, sandwiches, jalapeno peppers and meatballs.

Breakfast will be served after the New Year and will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, black-eyed peas, collard greens and coffee. Angel Morales will provide entertainment.. Purchase your tickets at the cashier's cage now.

NAF Outlet Auction

The NAF Outlet is scheduled to hold an auction Jan. 25, in Bldg. 1154 (Former Auto Skills Center) from 10 a.m. until items are sold.

The sale includes vehicles, boats, lawn mowers, industrial refers, and freezers, deep fat fryers, chairs,

tables, and a large variety of tools and automotive shop equipment. A list will be provided prior to the auction. Watch for more details in January.

Brooks Atrium

Visit the Brooks Atrium. Building 1154, located on 9th Street directly behind the baseball field, now has a new name. The recently renovated interior of the Brooks Atrium is home to the Services Marketing Department, The FrameWorks and Outdoor Recreation.

While visiting The FrameWorks be sure to check out our consignment area, Crafted With Care. You will be able to pick up handcrafted gifts for family, friends or office personnel. Rent items such as tables, chairs, grills, camping equipment, sports equipment, bicycles and other items from Equipment Check-Out located in Outdoor Recreation. They also are in charge of the Fam Camp, base pavilions, Lemon Lot and Vehicle Storage Lot.

The Family Support Center Loan Closet has recently moved to Outdoor Recreation.

Military personnel who are PCSing to or from Brooks can temporarily check out a variety of household items, such as dish packs. Stop by and visit the Atrium.

The FrameWorks Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

The FrameWorks has relocated from the Base Exchange Mall back to Bldg. 1154, now called the Brooks Atrium.

Bring in your artwork and our framing specialists will assist you in selecting just the right mats and frames to compliment it.

Military Night At The Iguanas

Show your Military ID card at the Freeman Coliseum Box Office or the Box Office at 8546 Broadway for your \$6.00 Upper Horseshoe tickets to the San Antonio Iguanas games. Available dates are December 22, 29 and January 12. This is a great opportunity to take the family to a hockey game. Support our local team.

Happy Holidays

The Services Division would like to wish the Brooks family very happy holidays.

Brooks, along with the Services Division's facilities, has gone through many changes in the past year and we could not have done it without the support of our valued customers.



Feature



Spiritual Renewal



Photos by Rudy Purificato

The nativity wisemen reveal rich hues Master Sgt. Ginny Yeaton used in her restoration work.

Hyperbarics specialist 'revives' base chapel nativity figures

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

to restore the figures to their original splendor. Her artistic adventure, however, became a Michaelangelo-like 'Agony and the Ecstasy' journey as she coped with

physical pain and 'experimental' paints.

"When I began the project in February, I started to feel pain in my neck and numbness in my arms," Yeaton

said, referring to latent symptoms from an injury sustained 16 years ago. X-rays revealed three of her neck vertebrae had nearly disintegrated. "They had to fuse my neck," she said, noting that without the surgery she would have been as immobile as the nativity figures. Prior to her 'restoration' surgery in November, Yeaton restored 14 fiberglass figures that years earlier she helped 'recondition'. "Five years ago I helped my friend Staff Sgt. Deb Loar repaint the nativity's main pieces. I did the prep work. I stuck them in my shower and cleaned them off."

They considered their work a broad-brush cleanup, not a restoration. Time and money precluded them from doing anything more to refurbish the nativity that, by Yeaton's recollection, had been part of the base holiday landscape since before 1989.

Replacing the nativity set was not an option, Yeaton said, explaining, "It would cost \$11,000 to replace the whole set." She figured, quite correctly, the biggest cost to her would be labor. While Yeaton spent less than \$200 for materials, she labored an estimated 500 hours over a nine-month period.

"Paint was missing from many pieces. There was no primer left on any of them. The fiberglass was so thin in some places you could see through them," she recalls.

The project was both a challenge and a labor of love. "I had no prior experience in restoration work. As a hobby begun two years ago, I started painting ceramic figures six to 12 inches high. For this project, I just expanded (my experience) by a few feet," she joked.

She also greatly expanded her knowledge in dealing with a variety of restoration problems, including a towering challenge that stretched her abilities. "The last king I completed was the tallest at about 5'8." I couldn't paint the top of his crown because it was over my head. My brother William painted the king's crown, not wanting me to climb on top of a chair to do it because of my medical condition."

She began the project with the smallest piece. "I selected the angel because I thought it would be the easiest piece to restore," Yeaton remembers, believing learning from mistakes made on it would later help her restore the others.

"Unfortunately, the angel is still at home. It's in the worst condition of all. Her feet were broken off and one of her wings had totally separated into layers of fiberglass," Yeaton said. She used old fiberglass casting



“I really enjoyed doing it because of what the nativity means to me.”

Master Sgt. Ginny Yeaton
U.S. Air Force School
of Aerospace Medicine

material to reconstruct the angel's feet. For wing repair, she applied polyurethane glue as a sealant.

Before the project began, Yeaton had to convert her apartment living room into an artist's studio equipped with a variety of paints, sealants and a nativity scene reference catalogue. "I changed some of the colors used in the original Victorian set. In particular, I brightened the colors of the (three) kings."

The process involved the pieces initially cleaned in Yeaton's shower. After drying, each figure had to be hand sanded three separate times, cleaned a second time, dried, then protected from moisture with two primer coats.

Following the final drying, Yeaton applied two coats of paint. She experimented with four different paint types. "I purposely used different paints to determine which ones weather the best. After the holidays, I'll reevaluate them to see how the paints survived."

Yeaton survived the problems she encountered by adapting. "Because of my neck (condition), my hands shook. To do the finer work on the figures' eyes, lips and eyebrows, I had to steady my right hand by holding it up with my left (hand)."

Yeaton credits fulfilling a goal, rather than the neck brace she now wears, for allowing her to hold her head high. Except for the angel, the restored nativity set premiered in front of the chapel on Dec. 4.

"I really enjoyed doing it because of what the nativity means to me."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil

With the skill of a surgeon and the patience of a saint, a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine hyperbarics specialist has facilitated a holiday miracle of sorts in 'reviving' Brooks Chapel nativity figures whose condition had once given the word 'lifeless' a bad name.

This revival was accomplished, ironically, by a novice restoration artist who raced against time and her own deteriorating medical condition to complete the project before Christmas.

"I was appalled by the horrible condition they were in," said Master Sgt. Ginny Yeaton, noncommissioned officer in charge of Davis Hyperbarics Laboratory nursing services. Weather and neglect had taken their toll on the traditional manger scene characters whose deterioration had made them even unappealing as yard sale material.

With the chapel staff's blessing, Yeaton volunteered



The newly restored nativity gets a helping hand from Chapel member Senior Airman Scott Wiggam.



A child plays with toys she received from Brooks' 'Lone Elf.'

Courtesy photos

A Christmas story ...

Brooks 'Lone Elf' helps toyless children

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

He calls himself 'a friend of Santa,' but to thousands of San Antonio's poor children he can truly be called St. Nick's spirited 'Lone Elf.'

"When I drive by the projects on Christmas, I look for kids watching others play with toys. Those are the ones who have nothing," recalls Joe Perez, a Brooks Base Exchange Market employee.

For 14 years, Perez has patrolled the mean streets of San Antonio's toughest and most impoverished neighborhoods on Christmas dispensing gifts to needy children.

What he has found on this so-called 'happiest day of the year' has been sadness, brightened for a few moments by a man who is giving back to his community.

"I've been asked many times why

I do this on Christmas. I do it because when I was a boy someone who I didn't know gave me a gift. It has always stuck with me," recalls Perez, a 44-year-old Los Angeles native who in 1968 moved with his family to San Antonio.

Perez initially lived in Victoria Courts, former public housing once adjacent to the Institute of Texan Cultures.

"I come from a family of 11 children. My parents also (had) adopted a child with Down's Syndrome. We used to receive toy donations," he remembers.

Perez's secret desire to help underprivileged children manifested itself one 'foggy' Christmas Eve at his mother Otila's west side home where he lived. His mother would not know until 11 years later why her son spent endless hours in the garage where he secretly had stashed toys.

Not until recently did friends

know about his Yuletide search for 'toyless tots' on a day when even Santa himself was at home snug in bed.

"The first year, I bought toys for about 25-30 kids. I'm not good at wrapping, so I put the toys in plastic tie-bags along with an orange, apple, pecans and some candy," he said. Perez has never relied on referrals or donations. He always spends most of his delivery day distributing gifts in low income housing areas.

"Kids are up early on Christmas. When they ask me who I am, I'd

say, 'a friend of Santa.' Gifts he has been able to afford over the years range from Barbie dolls and Teddy bears to footballs and coloring books. Perez limits his gift giving to children 12 years old to toddler, those he characterizes as 'kids who still believe in Santa.' He always approaches eager youngsters with courtesy and caution, usually asking their parents' permission to give them gifts. Sometimes parents turn out to be friends he knew in school.

"Every year I run out of toys," he says, not knowing when or where he'll end his deliveries which sometimes takes six or seven hours. Last year, Perez distributed about 320 toys. His 'one-man' operation has expanded to include several friends who help him wrap gifts.

While Perez truly knows the meaning of the saying 'it's more blessed to give than receive,' he has encountered some shocking situations.

"One time, an old lady tried to steal my bag of toys," he said. He has often been the target of verbal abuse that includes such taunts as, "You think you're going to change the world by what you're doing?" Perez replies, "No, but it has changed me!" He never allows these experiences to shatter his unwavering belief in giving. "I'm giving them a little relief by taking their minds off poverty for awhile."

Many heart-wrenching moments have made Perez a perennial Santa's helper.

"I've been in homes where it was so cold you could see your breath. It shocks you seeing a sick kid in diapers living in a house with no heat," exclaims Perez. He said, "A boy told me the Hot Wheels racing set I had given him years before was sold by his father for drugs. I ended up giving that kid two gifts. I told the neighbor, who the boy was visiting, to keep his toys at her home."

Several years ago at the same

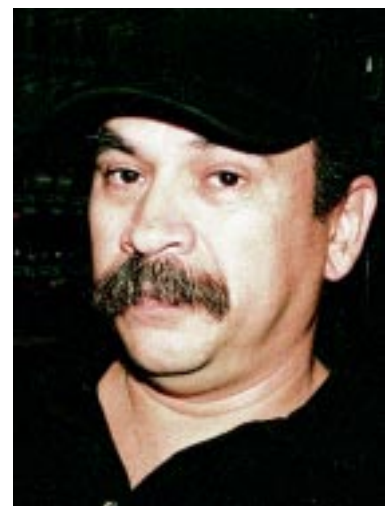
Victoria Courts where he once lived, Perez encountered three siblings who were running away from home. "It was drizzling. They were wearing T-shirts and shorts, but had no shoes." After he gave them gifts, they ran back home.

Some of Perez's most memorable moments have come during visits to convenience stores. Perez once approached a man sitting in a car with his six kids. He discovered the man's wife had died two days before Christmas.

"Years later, I was standing in line at an Auto Zone when I heard someone whisper repeatedly, 'Hey, Santa.' It was the man I had helped. He told me, 'You gave my kids toys one year. They weren't going to get

"Last year, I met a mother and her two kids who were buying baloney and bread for their Christmas dinner. They were living in a shed."

Joe Perez
'Lone Elf'



anything because I had no money'."

"Last year, I met a mother and her two kids who were buying baloney and bread for their Christmas dinner. Their home had burned down a few days before. The woman's husband had abandoned them. They were living in a shed."

Perez returned a few days later with food, blankets and clothes, partially funded by a donation from Brooks senior leadership.

Since then, Perez has accepted other donations, including \$500 from the Brooks Spouses Club. He plans to set up a special 'Joe's Kids at Christmas' account at the Brooks Federal Credit Union.

Anyone wishing to donate toys can do so at the BX Market or by contacting Ronnie and Edna Hall's home, site for this year's gift wrapping, at 436-1512 or 381-6746.

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Joe Perez gives gifts to children living in a San Antonio public housing area.





School physicals and catastrophic cap reduction new benefits for TRICARE beneficiaries

Submitted by Health Net Federal Services— As of December 15, 2001, two new changes to TRICARE benefits was implemented. Schools physicals are now covered for school-aged children 5-11 in conjunction with school enrollment. These newly covered school physicals are offered under Preventive Services and subject to cost-shares and deductibles as prescribed by your TRICARE plan. The newly implemented school physical benefit is retroactive to October 30, 2000. You will automatically receive refunds, when applicable, for children's school physicals (contractors will be responsible for sending out refunds).

At the same time, the TRICARE fiscal year catastrophic cap will be reduced from \$7,500 to \$3,000 for retirees, family members of retirees and survivors. The catastrophic cap reduction is retroactive back to October 1, 2000, therefore, contractors will be responsible for researching their files and sending out refunds.

What is a catastrophic cap? As a TRICARE beneficiary, you have a catastrophic cap loss protection limit for your health care costs. This places a limit on out-of-pocket expenses.

TRICARE Prime retirees, retiree family members and survivors will have a catastrophic cap of \$3,000 per enrollment year, as well as a \$3,000 catastrophic cap per fiscal year. The

enrollment year catastrophic cap is based on your 12-month Prime enrollment period. The fiscal year catastrophic cap runs from October 1 through September 30 each year.

Out-of-pocket expenses go in both the fiscal year and enrollment year "buckets." TRICARE enrollees will pay no more applicable out-of-pocket expenses for the rest of the enrollment year once the enrollment year catastrophic cap is met, or for the rest of the fiscal year once the fiscal year is met.

Deductibles and cost shares imposed on services provided under Point-of-Service (POS) may not be credited to the enrollment year catastrophic cap. However, enrollment fees, deductibles, copayments and cost-shares, including those assessed to POS may be credited to the fiscal year catastrophic cap.

For example, if you pay \$250 out-of-pocket, that \$250 is credited once towards the enrollment year and again towards the fiscal year catastrophic cap.

For more information regarding either of these new benefits, or for information on how you may receive a reimbursement due to the catastrophic cap reduction, call your TRICARE Service Center or Beneficiary Service Representative at (800) 406-2832.

Holiday weight gain can last a lifetime

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The average American will gain about a pound on holiday goodies this year.

That is not much, but medical studies unfortunately show the years disappear, but the pounds do not.

Defense Department officials want servicemembers and their families — especially children — retirees and civilian employees to enjoy lifelong health and fitness, said Air Force Col. (Dr.) Daniel Cohen, chief medical officer and deputy operations director for the office of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The military medical system today stresses a "condition management approach" to obesity, which means working with beneficiaries to prevent the problem rather than have to treat it, Cohen said. The approach marks a change in traditional thinking, one that requires a close partnership with beneficiaries.

It is good for beneficiaries as well as the military medical system since there is a healthier population of beneficiaries, and lower health-care costs, he said.

All military branches have body weight and conditioning standards, such as the body mass index ratio developed by the National Institutes of Health in 1998. BMI is the ratio of weight in kilograms to height in meters squared. A BMI of less than 25 is considered normal, 25 to 29.9 is overweight, and more than 30 is obese.

About a thousand servicemembers are discharged each year because of their weight, but the active force's problem is minor compared to family members, who mirror the general public, Cohen said. Using the BMI, studies suggest 60 percent of Americans are overweight or obese.

About 15- to 20-percent of children are overweight or obese, and about 40 percent weigh more than 80 percent of their ideal body weight, he said.

The services' elite forces are most effective at weight control. This is probably because of their culture, which stresses physical prowess, agility and team coordination, Cohen said.

"My anecdotal experience is that you do not commonly see overweight and obesity in our elite forces, though I haven't really studied

that scientifically," he said.

Whether or not his hunch is correct, one thing Cohen said is certain for everyone: Prevention of weight problems and obesity is easier than treating them.

They are illnesses, he said, but many overweight individuals do not see themselves as sick or needing treatment.

"They do not recognize the steep and very slippery slope on which they sit," Cohen said.

Obesity is linked to higher rates of chronic illness and poorer physical quality of life than lifelong smoking, problem drinking and poverty combined, in the United States, he said. Weight problems and obesity are clearly associated with type-2 diabetes, gall bladder disease, hypertension, coronary artery disease, depression and elevated cholesterol and triglyceride levels in the blood.

Considering that an overweight 25 year old might gain 10 to 20 pounds per decade, it is not surprising nearly 30 percent of Americans at any given time are trying to lose weight, Cohen said. The cost is up to \$50 billion per year, and most of it is wasted because it is spent on foods, nutritional programs, supplements and remedies of dubious value, he said.

"Losing weight and keeping it off is not easy, ever," Cohen said. Weight control means adopting a lifestyle that combines prudent dieting and a sustained exercise program. It is the only way to prevent and effectively treat weight problems or obesity without resorting to medications, he said.

"Sustained exercise means 30 minutes of exercise, preferably vigorous, three or four times per week, and more often if one is inclined," Cohen said. "The benefits of frequent exercise are well documented. Even walking is helpful as long as it is sustained. One should feel at least a little tired at the end of it, in my opinion."

Cohen cautioned people about weight control and children. Severely limiting children's caloric intake can adversely affect growth and development, especially during adolescence, when their needs increase, he said. The best ticket is a balanced diet that is neither excessive in calories nor excessively restrictive, coupled with age-appropriate exercise. Children attempting to lose weight should do so only under the care of physicians or nurse health managers.

With a life change, people can lose one or two pounds per month, and losing 12 to 20 pounds in a year is a real success story, he said.

A pound of fat contains about 3,500 calories. Vigorous exercise for 30 minutes may burn up to 350 calories. So even with daily exercise it would take 10 to 12 days to burn a pound of fat, if people are eating only a normal amount of calories, he said. An average adult requires 2,000 to 2,500 calories daily, so the goal should be to not exceed about 2,000 calories, ever, he said.

“A pound of fat contains about 3,500 calories. Vigorous exercise for 30 minutes may burn up to 350 calories. So even with daily exercise it would take 10 to 12 days to burn a pound of fat, if people are eating only a normal amount of calories.”

Col. Daniel Cohen
Office of the Assistant Secretary of
Defense for Health Affairs



Martin Luther King observance

Brooks will celebrate Martin Luther King Day 2002 with a special observance ceremony Jan. 17 at the Base Chapel from 11 a.m.-noon. Chaplain Nathaniel Crawford, HQ AETC/HQ, motivational speaker and behavioral consultant will be the featured speaker. The program will also include a short program and inspirational music, and will be followed by a reception.

Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month.

Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least 2 years, be between 20-45 years old, and able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546, or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

Scholarship applications being accepted

Applications are being accepted for the Bernard P. Randolph scholarship. The fund supports college-bound se-

NEWS briefs

niors or full-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian or dependent community. Applications can be obtained at the Brooks, Lackland AFB, Randolph AFB or Fort Sam Houston libraries.

Applicants will submit 600-800 word essays, which will be judged by independent evaluators.

Applications and essays are due by 3 p.m. Jan. 3, and awards will be presented at the Scholarship Luncheon Feb. 21 at Brooks.

Contact Lt. Dennis Clements at 536-2359 for more information.

Active duty medical inprocessing

All active duty members (Army, Navy, Air Force) are required to inprocess through the base clinic when they arrive at Brooks. The Military Personnel Flight will provide an appointment for this mandatory medical orientation for all active duty newcomers. The medical orientation is an important step to accessing care at this facility. During this briefing, the active duty member will complete necessary documentation to change primary care assignment to Brooks Clinic from their previous duty station. Delaying your attendance at the medical orientation and completion of the proper TRICARE transfer docu-

mentation may cause delays in TRICARE assignment. Unfortunately, completion of the transfer for the active duty member does not ensure that the family members are transferred. The sponsor or spouse must stop by a TRICARE Service Center to complete the necessary TRICARE transfer enrollment forms for all non-active duty members. There is a TRICARE Service Center (TSC) at the Brooks clinic for your convenience. If you have any questions regarding TRICARE enrollment, please call us at 536-2928 or the TSC at 1-800-406-2832. The 311th Medical Squadron is proud to be your partner in health care.

Brooks Toastmasters

Toastmasters is an international organization formed in 1924 to aid in effective communication, practicing public speaking in a relaxed environment. Toastmasters meets here each Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

Contact Rick Young at 536-4464 or Capt. Juan Ubiera at 536-1953 for more information.

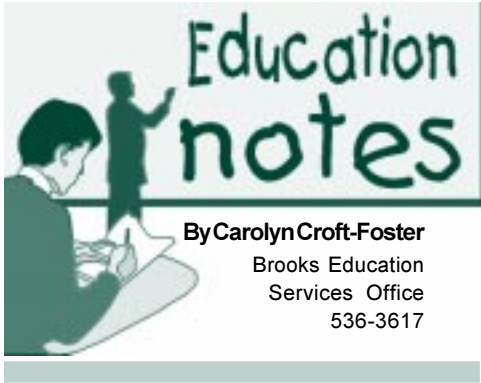
Technology expo

The 311th Communications Squadron will host the Brooks technology Expo, scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Brooks Club from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. The event is open to all base personnel.

Tax Tips

Volunteers needed for 02 tax season

Tax preparation is often perceived as so complicated and time consuming that many military members will not attempt to prepare their own tax returns. Those who prepare their own taxes may fail to claim deductions and credits, short-changing themselves. Others pay commercial organizations to prepare their taxes. Some members even fall victim to unscrupulous firms, which offer tax refund discounting schemes. The schemes are usually illegal and charge the user an unreasonable interest rate. Since tax season is approaching, the Brooks Tax Center will open soon to provide valuable tax filing assistance to those who are eligible. Last year, the volunteers at the Tax Center assisted in filing more than 1000 tax returns. The 311th Human Systems Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is seeking volunteers. Any member of the Brooks community can volunteer, including spouses and civilians. Volunteers will assist in preparing basic tax returns for members of the military community. Representatives from the Internal Revenue Service will train volunteers on basic tax preparation and computation. While this training will give volunteers a foundation of basic tax issues, members of JA will be onsite to offer further assistance. The Tax Center is a commander-directed quality of life program that cannot succeed without you. Contact Capt. Julie Jiru or Staff Sgt. Edward Hill, at 536-3301, if you are interested in volunteering.



Registration underway for Spring '02

Palo Alto College will offer courses on base for the full semester and Flex 1. Classes begin Jan. 14 for 16 week lunch-time courses including: US History I, and Fundamentals of Speech. Flex courses include Art Appreciation, English, and Government. The PAC representative can register students for ACCD classes Tuesdays. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

UTSA on-base class

The University of Texas at San Antonio will offer AHS 2103 Physiology at Brooks from Jan. 14 through May 11 from noon-12:50 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Bldg. 559, classroom 5. For more information visit Education Services or call 536-3617.

Airman Education and Commissioning Program

The Airman Education and Commissioning Program is open to airmen who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree in any ABET certified engineering program, meteorology, nursing, and selected foreign area studies and languages. Airmen who are accepted into AECP remain on active duty while attending school full time. Applicants who successfully complete their academic phase of AECP will enter Officer Training School. Nurse candidates must pass the National Council Licen-

sure before attending OTS. Upon completion of OTS, airmen will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force.

Application cut off dates: CLEP 62065 must be taken by Dec. 31 for technical applicants, Education Services Office application cut off date is Jan. 7. Requests for MOAEs are due at AFIT/RRE by Jan. 15. All courses must be completed by Jan. 15 for consideration. Packages are forwarded to no later than Feb. 28 and selection is announced in May.

Nine CLEP exams to retire

The College Board is retiring 9 CLEP Subject paper-based tests in fiscal year 2002. The exams with Dec. 31 deadlines are: Intro to Business Law, Calculus with Elementary Functions, and Information Systems & Computer Applications.

Students who plan to apply to Airman Education Commissioning Program should plan to take the Calculus

exam prior to Dec. 31, as it is a requirement for application. The exams that will be retired July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology, and Trigonometry. **Officer Training School** Enlisted members who have completed a bachelors degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to OTS. The next deadline for applications is Jan. 3. Call 536-3617 for more information.,

CCAF Spring graduation deadline

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Spring 2002 graduation is Feb. 22. Nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell AFB, AL by that date. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services to ensure their nominations have been submitted.



Year in review

2001: 'A sports odyssey'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A shrinking talent pool did not dampen the spirits of Brooks athletes who collectively experienced a sports odyssey of sorts in a year filled with tragedy, disappointment and a few thrilling moments.

Despite cancellation of the flag football season due to the lack of players, most base team sports were played with great enthusiasm and competitiveness. Organizational downsizing and reorganization forced some teams out of existence, but also helped forge new combined teams that stabilized and strengthened intramural programs.

At the intramural level, the 311th Human Systems Program Office defeated Mission Support Squadron for the base basketball championship. The title contest served as the farewell game for YA's leading scorer Va'shon Moore, one of Brooks' top athletes, who has since departed the base.

Seeded fourth in the intramural volleyball tourney with a 5-5 regular season record, the 311th Security Forces Squadron shocked their favored opponent, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, by beating them for the base crown.

AFIERA's softball squad, meanwhile, added to their legendary status as a sports dynasty by winning its fifth consecutive championship, defeating the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine in a 21-20 slugfest.

In intramural golf, the 311th Air Base Group's Services squad won the base title by beating a feisty 311th Communications Squadron team.

Not even Tiger Woods could have prevented the Brooks varsity golf squad from underachieving at the Air Force Materiel Command tourney at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The Brooks team finished seventh in a field of eight teams.

The Brooks men's varsity basketball squad, likewise, self-destructed at the AFMC tourney held at Kelly AFB. Joining their hoop brethren in tourney misery was the base varsity softball team, which was overwhelmed by AFMC championship competition at Warner-Robins AFB, Ga.

The only inspiring performance by a base varsity team in command competition was Brooks women's volleyball squad. The Brooks squad was the AFMC 'Cinderella' team with a surprising second place showing at Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Squadron Challenge X provided its own surprising finish with AFIERA dethroning two-time defending champion YA. Most surprising was how AFIERA won the title. Except for claiming the most points in the non-sports event karaoke, AFIERA did not win any of the 15 sporting events. They edged YA for the base title on the strength of participation points as the only team to compete in all 16 events.

At the Department of Defense level, the 311th Human Systems Wing Contracting Directorate's Karrie Tarkowski helped the All-Air Force women's soccer team make history in winning the Armed Forces tournament championship. They became the first team in Armed Forces women's soccer history to win the championship by going undefeated and unscored upon.

The biggest sports-related surprise at Brooks occurred in March when the former test car of late racing legend Dale Earnhardt made an unscheduled pit stop at Hangar 9. Dozens of base NASCAR fans flocked to view the \$150,000 car, which arrived at Brooks just days after Earnhardt had been killed at the Daytona 500.

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Brooks varsity hoopsters potentially can win it all

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The pieces to an elusive championship team are in place. Now, the potential that exists among a group of talented players must manifest itself under a new head coach whose basketball acumen has guided other teams to fulfillment of their dreams.

The 2001-2002 edition of the Brooks Men's Varsity Basketball team is laden with power and speed, youth and veterans.

They are poised to make some noise in February at the Air Force Materiel Command championship tournament to be held at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

What sets this team of hopefuls apart from past squads is a sincere desire for self-improvement. What stands in their way of becoming a formidable force on the court is a collective belief in themselves as champions.

"They are better than they think they are. We're set with youth and veterans. My job is to blend them into a winning team," said Coach Hosea Talbert, no stranger to hoop success.

Since taking over head coaching duties from interim coach Charles McGlothen in November, Talbert has been assessing his squad with the same intense scrutiny of a new car buyer. He likes what he sees.

The coach knows his team, like a car, will run like a charm. All it

“We’re a fast ball club. A lot of teams won’t run the floor with us or play man-to-man.”

Hosea Talbert

Coach

Brooks Varsity Men's Basketball

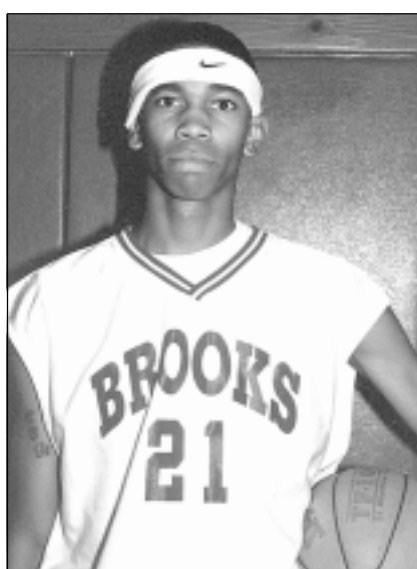


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Armand "Slim" Bailey is among a group of rookie players who may help the Brooks Varsity Men's Basketball team grab an Air Force Materiel Command title.

needs is a tune-up, battery charge and 'defensive driving' training.

The battery charge may be supplied by two of the team's promising young rookies: 6'6" small forward Armond "Slim" Bailey and off-guard Leo Funchess.

Bailey will join four returning veterans in the starting lineup: point guard Robert Garcia, off-guard Colby Benjamin, power forward Rob Taylor and 6'7" Junell Dumas.

The need for a team tune-up and 'defensive driving' training was evident at a recent tournament hosted by Lackland AFB. Brooks' scoring sizzled with an average 88 points per game. However, team defense sputtered like an old carburetor on a cold day.

This fixable weakness was glaringly apparent when Brooks scored a team-high 109 points in a losing effort to an opponent who scored 118.

"I knew this team could score, but it's my job to teach them defense. I have to teach them that good defense creates your offense. They played very well man-to-man (during the tournament)," explained Talbert.

The 'tune-up' began at a recent post-tourney workout at the fitness center gym.

Two of Talbert's most effective coaching tools are his knowledge of the game and educational approach in advising players.

"This past weekend was not a total loss," he told his team during a pre-workout pep talk.

The players learned that their coach liked some of the things they did at the tourney, but they also realized that Talbert is committed to strengthening their skills and adjusting their approach to the game.

An advocate of the fast break, Talbert wants to maximize the team's blazing speed.

"We're a fast ball club. A lot of teams won't run the floor with us or play man-to-man. At every (practice) drill, I tell them, 'Don't let the ball touch the floor (on fast breaks). In three (quick) passes you can make a lay-up'," the coach noted.

He also emphasized to them that shooting 45 percent from the field is good enough to win, so long as their opponents are held to 40 percent shooting.

"The margin is only five percent, but the difference is 15 points," he said. "Fifteen points is a good margin. I don't advocate running up the score."

Talbert is not as concerned with improving the team's scoring opportunities as he is with developing a winning attitude. That comes with players knowing their roles, trust in their teammates' capabilities, confidence and discipline. The gelling of a future championship squad has begun.

What takes shape is anybody's guess, although the new coach doesn't believe in guesswork. He believes in results. Time, and the maturing of a team, will tell.

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See related story on Page 21

Youth 'in-line' skating track takes shape, part of 'city center' park

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Construction begins this month on Brooks first 'in-line' skating track, part of the 311th Air Base Group's phased plans to create a youth 'city center' park.

"The track and (outdoor) equipment is part of the city center concept. I wanted age-specific equipment (for the park)," said Col. Terry Nelsen, 311th Air Base Group commander.

The proposed city center park will be located between the Base Chapel and Youth Center. It will feature a track designed specifically for in-line skating and two new playground facilities.

Nelsen said he funded the \$20,000 track from the ABG budget. The two new playgrounds have been paid for through Air Force Materiel Command "Year of the Family" funds.

Dixie Bonamo, Youth Services director, proposed the track project earlier this year based on a growing need to provide a safe in-line skating venue for dependent youth.

"It's something I've wanted to do for a long time. We've had youth skating all over the base, on sidewalks and in the streets. No one has been hurt (so far), but I felt we needed a track," Bonamo said.

The five-foot-wide, 650-foot linear track will feature a figure-eight design and will be made from reinforced concrete.

Steve Holt, 311th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager, said Park Place Recreation Designs Limited will build the track. This San Antonio-based company previously designed and installed the Child Development Center playground.

The track will serve as the centerpiece for the youth park that

will also include a new playground designed for children ages 3-5 years old. Bonamo said this new playground, costing \$29,500, will be assembled near the already existing playground. Its planned location will be in the middle of the top of the figure-eight track closest to the chapel.

Another phase of the project, Bonamo explained, will be the creation of a teen fitness area featuring outdoor athletic equipment. This equipment, costing \$36,500, will be located within the vicinity of the track.

Besides in-line skating, the track can also be used for bicycling, Bonamo said. "It's designed to meet the needs of the 12-13 year-old age group," she said.

Holt said the track is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2002, Holt said.

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Former prison guard-turned-varsity hoop coach cannot be intimidated

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Notorious criminals Charles Manson and Sirhan Sirhan helped steel the resolve of a former prison guard-turned-Brooks varsity basketball coach who doesn't let any situation intimidate him.

Hosea Talbert is unfazed by the fact that the Brooks men's varsity hoop squad has never won an Air Force Materiel Command championship. In fact, he considers this situation "temporary."

"They (team) feel confident with me as their coach. That confidence is going to give them an extra five points (per game)," Talbert said, referring to one of the many angles he plays to give his team a boost.

"I'm always thinking ahead. This game is like chess," admits Talbert, who is also the new fitness center specialist in charge of varsity sports. Confidence and leadership are two key ingredients the new coach believes to be essential for winning championships. "My philosophy is to get them

(players) to understand my teaching methods.

Talbert explains, "As coach, I must know the nature and character of every player. I have many roles, from counselor to confidant. The players must understand that I'm there for them all the time."

Talbert's philosophy has succeeded everywhere he has coached. From 1992-2000, while serving as an Air Force civil service women's varsity basketball coach at Mildenhall Air Base, (England), he led squads to seven United Kingdom championships, while twice winning the U.S. Air Force - Europe hoop title.

These successes were founded on player-coach commitment, something he learned early in life growing up in Fenton, La. In the segregated South, the 49-year-old coach relied heavily on his commitment to his faith in God and the values his parents conveyed to help him overcome racial injustice.

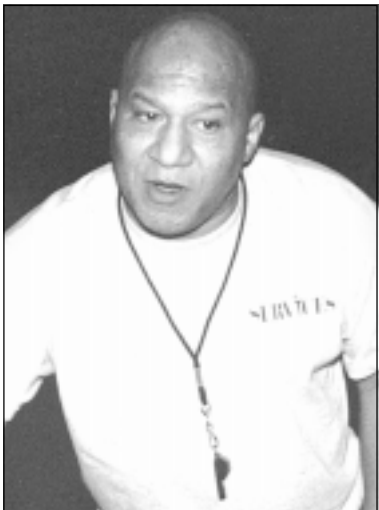
"I could have grown up an angry kid, but it taught me how to deal with people on a

singular level. I have lived by the (Bible's) golden rule: 'Do unto others that what you want done unto you.' I don't let negative things influence my life. I accept a man for who he is," admits Talbert.

Besides becoming an ordained minister, like his father and grandfather, Talbert also served as an Air Force Security Forces policeman. While playing varsity basketball at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, he met his future wife Diane, who today is a chief master sergeant stationed at Randolph AFB.

Talbert separated from the Air Force prior to his wife's stateside reassignment. He credits his Air Force law enforcement training and military coaching experience for helping prepare him for his subsequent career as a correctional officer at one of America's toughest prisons: San Quentin (California).

"I helped run the prison intramural program and helped coach the varsity (basketball) prison team. We always had the best home record because



Hosea Talbert

we always played at home," he quipped.

Talbert's sense of humor helped him cope with the prisoners. Most inmates grew to respect Talbert as a man who could not be intimidated. Not even Charles Manson ratted the then rookie prison guard.

"Manson is a very unique convict who is smart and charismatic. Staring into his cold blue eyes could mesmerize you," Talbert said, recalling the inner power that Manson, who masterminded the 1969

murders of actress Sharon Tate and others, possessed.

"I didn't know who he was when I first served him breakfast. He was cussing me out for not serving the food quick enough. With his long hair and beard, he looked like Jesus."

Another infamous inmate who Talbert had to deal with was Sirhan Sirhan, assassin of 1968 presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy. "He is a quiet individual, a hard man to figure out. He didn't look like he'd do anybody harm," he said of the Iranian-born assassin who claims to be a political prisoner.

Talbert worked at San Quentin for three years, followed by an assignment at Mule Creek State Prison.

As an Air Force recreational specialist, Talbert relies on his experiences to mold championship teams. "My job is to keep them motivated and to bring out their abilities. I teach them the team concept. It's not just winning or losing' it's how they treat one another as teammates."

Football Frenzy winners travel to Dallas

By Staff Sgt. James Garrett
Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Texas — It is every armchair quarterback's dream — a four-day trip with all the extras to a National Football League game.

That dream came true for eight Air Force club members and their guests, all winners of the first of three Air Force Clubs Football Frenzy contests.

From as far away as Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom, they converged earlier this month for five days of fun, food, and most importantly, football.

The highlight of the trip was VIP treatment at the Dallas Cowboys vs. New York Giants football game at Texas Stadium in Irving.

Winners and their guests not only received roundtrip airfare, but also hotel accommodations at a Wyndam Hotel, ground transportation and, of course, tickets to the game.

Also included in their schedule were pregame activities with the Cowboys on the field, a visit to the Texas Rangers baseball stadium and dinner in the Baseball Legends of the Game Museum.

Plus, they got a private tour of Six Flags Over Texas amusement park, concert or rodeo tickets, and a reception at the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Palace of Wax.

Most of the winners said they did not realize the magnitude of what they had won.

"At first, I didn't know what it was," said Staff Sgt. Sonya Smith from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., who was the guest of her husband Jim.

Jim Smith was equally sur-

prised. "I go to the club every Saturday," he said. "I only filled out three or four of the entry forms."

Senior Master Sgt. Andy Baldus from RAF Mildenhall did not believe he had actually won when he read his e-mail one Tuesday morning.

He suspected a friend playing a trick on him.

Even being on a temporary duty to Hurlburt Field, Fla., didn't stop another winner from collecting his prize.

While at Hurlburt, Tech. Sgt. Randy Wert from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., did not want to miss out on football, so he went to the club on weekends. He filled out about 15 entries at Hurlburt, and did not give the contest another thought.

Other winners of the Dallas trip were Staff Sgt. John Stokes, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.; Senior Airman Brandon Compeau, Eielson AFB, Alaska; Tony Rosser, Randolph AFB, Texas; Tech. Sgt. John Tolbert, Charleston AFB, S.C.; and Tech. Sgt. Sue Lewis, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

The Football Frenzy contest, which awards three sets of prizes annually, was created by the Air Force club system seven years ago to boost membership and retain current members.

Club members enter by submitting their names to a drawing for one of three trips, including jaunts to the NFL's Super Bowl in New Orleans, La., and the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

"This is just one of several ways that we reward our members throughout the year," said Frank Black, chief of the clubs division for the Air Force Services Agency.